

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 04857 011113Z

43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

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R 011055Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5170

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, NI,NG

SUBJECT. NIGERIA'S GARBA VISITS NIGER

1. NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA VISITED NIGER OCTOBER 27-29 IN WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN FURTHER EFFORT ON PART OF NIGERIANS TO NAIL DOWN GON SUPPORT ON ECOWAS ORGANIZATION ISSUES. ALTHOUGH ONLY PASSING MENTION MADE OF ECOWAS IN SPEECHES AND TOASTS, GARBA HAD TETE A TETE WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OCTOBER 28 DEVOTED, WE ASSUME, IN LARGE PART TO ECOWAS ISSUE.

2. AS USUAL DURING SUCH VISITS, HEAVY EMPHASIS LAID ON SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NIGER AND NIGERIA AND ON BILATERAL COOPERATION. GARBA'S PRESENCE HERE CAME IN WAKE OF MAJOR MEETING OF NIGER RIVER COMMISSION AND JUST AFTER INAUGURATION OF KAINJI-NIAMEY POWER LINE, WHICH IS PRIME EXAMPLECWO DATE OF NIGER-NIGERIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS GARBA'S
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 04857 011113Z

JOURNEY TO AGADEZ AND ARLIT TO VISIT URANIUM CONCESSIONS,
FOLLOWED BY MEETING WITH MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROLOGY IN

NIAMEY. IN PARTING REMARKS, FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NIGERIA'S "PARTICIPATION" IN URANIUM RESEARCH AND EXPLOITATION, INDICATING THAT SOME TANGIBLE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION. GARBA SAID HE WOULD BE CARRYING "RECOMMENDATIONS" ON FURTHER COOPERATION BACK TO LAGOS, SUGGESTING APPROVAL BEING SOUGHT AT CHIEF OF STATE LEVEL.

4. ON RHODESIA, GARBA SAID NIGERIA FOLLOWING GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH GREAT INTEREST. NIGERIA SUPPORTS ANY EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. GARBA CONTINUED, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE TO SUCH A CONFERENCE, WE HOPE SOMETHING POSITIVE WILL EMERGE. WE ARE FOR ANYTHING THAT WILL MOVE THE CONFERENCE FORWARD.

5. COMMENT: NIGER WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME NIGERIAN CAPITAL IN URANIUM SECTOR AND IN FLEDGLING SEONICHAR COAL POWER PLANT WHICH IS TO BE BUILD TO SERVICE URANIUM OPERATIONS IN ARLIT AREA. INVESTMENT IN NIGER'S URANIUM SECTOR WOULD BE GOOD LEVER FOR NIGERIANS TO USE AT THIS POINT IN ELICITING NIGER'S COOPERATION IN UPCOMING LOME ECOWAS MEETING. DAVISON

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